Watershed Projects for Rajasthan

394. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the Starred Question 660 given in Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 1050 watershed projects and 919 special projects sanctioned for Rajasthan during the last three years, only 245 watershed projects and 264 special projects were sanctioned for the year 2001-2002 as compared to 388 watershed projects and 293 special projects that were sanctioned for the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for the shortfall for the year 2001-2002;

(c) whether there was any hindrance in the implementation of shelterbelt plantations and afforestation in Rajasthan due to severe drought conditions prevailing there; and

(d) if for the action contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for shortfall in the number of projects sanctioned in 2001 -2002 was due to increased liability in respect of on going projects on account of upward revision of project cost, from Rs. 25.00 lakhs in the case of Rajasthan, to Rs. 30.00 lakhs per project with effect from 1.4.2000. It is evident from the details of funds released during the last three years, given in reply to Starred Question No. 660 in Rajya Sabha, that inspite of reduction in the number of new projects, an amount of Rs. 8164.26 lakhs was released to Rajasthan in 2001-2002 as against Rs. 7853.78 lakhs in 2000-2001.

(c) and (d) No report regarding any hindrance in the implementation of shelterbelt plantations and afforestation due to severe drought conditions has been received so far from Rajasthan Government.

Job opportunities for educated youths of Assam

395. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the achievements made so far for providing job opportunities to educated unemployed youths in NER, particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) the details of the number of the educated unemployed youths of NER, in the year 2002-2003, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has taken any action to remove poverty in NER, particularly in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.K. KRISHANAM RAJU): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development implements Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), a self-employment Scheme, and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), a wage-employment Scheme, for generating additional employment opportunities for rural poor including the educated unemployed youths in the rural areas of the country including Assam and all others North-East States.The Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries implements the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) to assist educated unemployed youths to set up self-employed tiny units.The achievements under these programmes during 2002-2003 are given below:—

Programme	Unit	North-East Regions	Assam
SGRY	Lakh Mandays	375.99	304.09
SGSY	No. of Swarozgaries Assisted	65843	50384
PMRY	No. of persons assisted	3014	2262

(b) The State-wise details of the number of the educated unemployed youths is not being maintained in the Ministry. However, the number on Live Register at the end of 2001 in the North Eastern Region, State-wise, is given below:—

State	Number on Live Register at the end of 2001 in thousand
Arunachal Pradesh	11.7
Assam	1036.5

State	Number on Live Register at the end of 2001 in thousand
Manipur	258.1
Meghalaya	24.9
Nagaland	21.4
Mizoram	20.3
Tripura	131.9
TOTAL	1504.8

(c) In addition to the employment generation programmes for the rural poor, SGRY and SGSY, the Ministry of Rural Development implements Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) in all North Eastern States for removing poverty.

Houses under IAY for SCs/STs of Assam

396. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes who have been provided housing facilities under the Indira Awas Yojana in Assam during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are a lot of poor families who do not have any housing facilities and Government are finding it difficult to provide them complete housing facilities; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue necessary directions to the Government of Assam for providing funds to all the poor families so that they can get housing facilities in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) As per information